



### Retirement

CW5 William Page, WAATS, ret 30 Nov 01

MSG James Gawne, Det 4 STARC, ret 31 Jul 01

SFC Jose Alcorta, HHB 2/180<sup>th</sup> FA, ret 31 Jul 01

SFC Michael Soto, Det 4 STARC, ret 31 Dec 01

SSG Phillip Cartwright, Svc Btry 1/180<sup>th</sup> FA, ret 31 Jul 01

SSG Ralph Coppock, B Btry 1/180<sup>th</sup> FA, ret 31 Jul 01

SSG Reina McMillon, 2222<sup>nd</sup> TC, ret 31 Oct 01

### RESIGNATIONS

SFC Peter Espitia, 158<sup>th</sup> S & S, resign eff 26 Sep 01

SSG Daniel Kelley, 356 Sig, resign 30 Sep 01

### NEW HIRES

1LT Mark Newman, HHB 1/180<sup>th</sup> FA, eff 26 Jun 01

SGT Joe Deleon, Det 4 STARC, eff 15 Feb 01

SGT Charles Funkhouser, Det 1 855 MP, eff 2 Jul 01

SGT Rebecca Knott, 385<sup>th</sup> Avn Bn, eff 18 Jun 01

SGT Martin Moreno, 2222<sup>nd</sup> TC, eff 21 May 01

SGT Gerald Penniman, B Btry 1/180<sup>th</sup> FA, eff 12 Jun 01

SGT Travis Rowland, C Btry 2/180<sup>th</sup> FA, eff 8 May 01

SGT Sylvia Wessell, Det 4 STARC, eff 14 Jun 01

SGT Fidel Zamora, 91<sup>st</sup> CST, eff 26 Jun 01

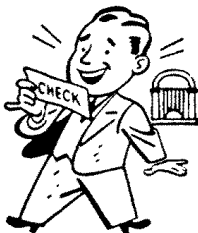
### DFAS/LES UPDATE

The AGR Office is now receiving the DFAS LES file and we are able to print LESs on or about the 27<sup>th</sup> of each month. If anyone is missing their LES please call this office directly from now on. We cannot make changes directly to DFAS but can print an LES as long as it has been forwarded from DFAS.

If you are missing your W-2 for this tax year please call toll free 1-888-PAY-ARMY (1-888-729-2769) after the 5<sup>th</sup> of February.

Here's a site for W-4 forms, most current and many more....

[http://www.irs.gov/forms\\_pubs/index.html](http://www.irs.gov/forms_pubs/index.html)



### NEW SGLV COVERAGE UPDATE

If you are a new soldier coming onboard the AGR program or have a new soldier in your command be aware that DFAS

deducts a full year of SGLV (approximately \$260.00) on the new soldiers first pay check. This office has been informed that it is a DFAS error and they are working on fixing this problem.

### CSB/REDUX NOTIFICATION, COUNSELING AND ELECTION PROCEDURES

Many of you that are eligible should have noticed a message in the remarks section of your LES that had a "DIEMS" date, and stated that if your DIEMS is correct, and it is after 1 Jul 86, you may be eligible to elect a \$30K career status bonus. See <http://www.odcsper.army.mil/retire> for more information

Uniserve website:  
<http://www.tsp.gov/uniserv/index.html>

DOD Military Pay Website:  
<http://pay2000.dtic.mil>  
(changing to <http://militarypay.dtic.mil>)

AR-PERSCOM website:  
<http://www.2xcitizen.usar.army.mil>

This message provides implementing procedures for determining eligibility, notification, counseling, and election of the career status bonus (CSB)/REDUX retired pay option (CSB/REDUX) enacted by PL 106-65, 5 Oct 99.



### MORE REDUX INFORMATION

SUBJECT: Correction to Career Status Bonus(CSB)/REDUX Message 01-143

1. Reference: MILPER Message 01-143, 11 April 2001, subject: CSB/REDUX/DEIMS Notification, Counseling & Election Procedures

2. MILPER Message 01-143, Paragraph 7 incorrectly states, "the CSB would be paid by DFAS no later than 60 days after the first of the month following the (CSB/REDUX) election effective date." This should have read "no later than the first month that begins on or after the date that is 60 days after the election is effective."

**Example:** If a member's CSB/REDUX election becomes effective on 10 October 2001, the CSB must be paid no later than 31 January 2002. The latter date is determined as follows: the date that is 60 days after the effective date of the election is 9 December 2001, so the first month that begins on or after that date is January 2002 -- the member must be paid no later than the end of January 2002.

3. Any CSB/REDUX election received before the member's 15th active duty anniversary becomes "effective" on the member's 15th active duty anniversary. Any CSB/REDUX election received after the member's 15th active duty anniversary is "effective" on the date received.

4. All members must be given six months from the official date of notification to make their election. This is identified on the Career Status Bonus Election form, DD Form 2839, Block 6. Members who are notified after their 14 and 1/2-year of active duty and choose to return their election before their 15th year will have the election become effective the 15th year.

**Example:** Member completes 14 years and six months of active duty on 10 June 2001. Ideally, the member will receive notification by then, but the member isn't notified until 10 October 2001 (as shown in Block 6, DD Form 2839), four months late. The member has until 9 April 2002 (six months from date of notification) to return the election. But, if the member chooses to return the form early and it is received before 9 December 2001 (the member's 15th active duty anniversary),

the election becomes effective on the 15th active duty anniversary. If the member returns the election after 9 December 2001, the election is effective on date received, but no later than six months from date of notification.

### VERIFICATION OF MILITARY EXPERIENCE AND TRAINING WEBSITE

The web site below is a DMDC website that provides a verification of military experience and training (VMET). In seconds the website will pull all of your military education and experience by accessing the Army Training Requirements and Resources System (ATRRS) and the Army/American Council on Education Registry Transcript System (AARTS).

The site does not generate an official transcript for purposes of granting college credit, but it can be used to support training and/or course requirements to qualify for civilian occupations, certificates, licenses, or programs of study. Access is restricted and requires the Name, SSN, Date of Birth and current status of the service member.

Please ensure widest dissemination of this information to all ARNG soldiers. POC is the undersigned.

[https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/vmet/owa/vmet\\_web\\_display.login](https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/vmet/owa/vmet_web_display.login)

MSG Ken Hardy  
ARNG Benefits Manager  
National Guard Bureau (NGB-ARH-P)  
DSN 327-3871, Com: 703-607-3871  
FAX: 703-607-5852

Helpful Education Links:  
<http://www.arngi.org>  
(ARNG Institute)  
<http://www.voled.doded.mil>  
(DOD Voluntary Ed Programs)  
<http://www.soc.aascu.org>  
(SOC Guard)  
<http://www.gibill.va.gov>  
(Veterans Administration)

<http://www.armyeducation.army.mil>  
<http://www.military.com/Careers/Education>



### TRICARE DENTAL PROGRAM INFORMATION

Subject: TRICARE DENTAL PROGRAM

Effective February 1, 2001 all inquiries concerning enrollment in the TRICARE Dental Program are to be referred to United Concordia Companies Incorporated(UCCI) at 1-888-622-2256. Dental issues not involving enrollment should be addressed to United Concordia's website at WWW.UCCI.COM or at 1-800-866-8499. All dental error resolution issues under this new program should be directed to UCCI.

When UCCI encounters a DEER/RAPIDS enrollment inconsistency, they will direct the soldier to visit their local RAPIDS site to correct DEERS. Every effort should be made to assist the soldier. If the RAPIDS site representative is unable to correct the problem through DEERS/RAPIDS, they (not the soldier) can contact the DEERS/RAPIDS Project Office at telephone number: (703) 325-9590/4529/4525/8941 or DSN:221-9590/4529/4525/8941 or Email: Mr. Jackson: [jacksoe0@hoffman.army.mil](mailto:jacksoe0@hoffman.army.mil) - Mrs. Hines: [hinesj@hoffman.army.mil](mailto:hinesj@hoffman.army.mil)

Based upon coverage and coverage cancellation error inquiries previously received by this office, the majority of the problems exist in the soldiers and dependents information in DEERS. Prior to enrolling in the TRICARE Dental Program, soldiers should verify all information pertaining them and their family members with their local RAPIDS

site. Listed below are items to focus on to reduce the possibility of dental coverage being cancelled:

Ensure the same name that appears on the LES is the same name that appears in DEERS/RAPIDS.

Renew ID cards prior to expiration date. Remember the key word in DEERS concerning dental coverage is eligibility. Dental coverage for dependents will depend upon their eligibility in DEERS.

Dependent children are eligible for dental coverage until the age of 21, unless they are full time students in which case they are eligible until age 23 or graduation whichever comes first.

Terminate dependent child entitlements under sponsor if dependent child joins the Armed Forces or gets married.

Ensure soldiers service record information is accurate in DEERS.

Thirty days prior to separation date, dental coverage may cancel. A soldier who is scheduled to ETS and suddenly decides to reenlist or extend needs to be mindful that the late action may be too late and dental coverage for their dependent(s) may cancel.

Ensure reenlistment/extension information is confirmed in DEERS as soon as possible.

Soldiers who have court orders concerning dependency, divorce or custody, need to ensure this information is reflected where necessary in DEERS.

Ensure dual military spouses are not carried under each others name for entitlements.

Ensure both dual military spouses are not paying for dental coverage on the same dependents.

As a reminder, please encourage soldiers to direct their attention to their monthly Leaves and Earnings Statement (LES) to ensure that the allotment and/or deduction amounts for dental are accurate.

Also, note that the payment for TRICARE dental will be reflected under the Allotments column on the LES.

Elbert S. Jackson  
DEERS/RAPIDS  
TDP Project Officer  
200 Stovall Street  
Alexandria, VA 22332-0474  
703-325-9590 (DSN 221)  
Fax: 703-325-4532  
email: [jacksoe0@hoffman.army.mil](mailto:jacksoe0@hoffman.army.mil)



### ENROLLING IN THE TRICARE DENTAL PROGRAM (TDP)

**IMPORTANT NOTICE:** If you find that your allotment for dental coverage was not on your last LES, you will probably need to re-enroll. This happens because your extension was not processed within a 30 day window. Please read the following instructions regarding enrollment:

To enroll in the TDP, the sponsor must complete a TDP Enrollment Form. TDP enrollment applications are available from Health Benefits Advisors, Dental Treatment Facilities, or Uniformed Service Personnel Offices. Sponsors may also download and print a copy of the enrollment form from the website at [www.ucci.com](http://www.ucci.com) or call 1-888-622-2256. Additionally, beginning February 1, 2001 individuals with Internet access may enroll online with a credit card.

In addition to the completed reenrollment form, sponsors must include an initial payment equal to his or her portion of one month's premium. Payment can be made by check, money order, Master Card or Visa. The enrollment form and payment should be submitted to the address on the back of the form.

If TDP receives the completed TDP Enrollment Form (and payment) by the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month, coverage is effective the first day of the month following receipt. However, if the application is received after the 20<sup>th</sup>, enrollment may not be effective until the first day of the second month.

It is recommended that the sponsor contact UCCI's customer service department by telephone to confirm coverage before receiving initial treatment.

Effective February 1, 2001 all inquiries concerning enrollment in the TRICARE Dental Program are to be referred to United Concordia Companies Incorporated (UCCI) at 1-888-622-2256. Dental issues not involving enrollment should be addressed to United Concordia's website at <http://www.ucci.com> or at 1-800-866-8499. All dental error resolution issues under this new program should be directed to UCCI. When UCCI encounters a DEER/RAPIDS enrollment inconsistency, they will direct the soldier to visit their local RAPIDS site to correct DEERS.

Every effort should be made to assist the soldier. If the RAPIDS site representative is unable to correct the problem through DEERS/RAPIDS, they (not the soldier) can contact the DEERS/RAPIDS Project Office at telephone number: (703) 325-9590/4529/4525/8941 or DSN:221-9590/4529/4525/8941 or Email: Mr. Jackson: [jacksoe0@hoffman.army.mil](mailto:jacksoe0@hoffman.army.mil) - Mrs. Hines: [hinesj@hoffman.army.mil](mailto:hinesj@hoffman.army.mil).

**Special Note:** There has recently been changes to some of the dental covered services offered. It is a good idea to visit the UCCI website and download the new benefits booklet at:

<http://www.ucci.com/tdp/TDPBenefitBooklet.pdf>



## Some Active Duty Troops Cleared for Laser Eye Surgery

By Staff Sgt. Kathleen T. Rhem, USA  
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, July 20, 2000 -- With only a few exceptions, active duty soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines are allowed to have their vision corrected with laser eye surgery and not worry about it affecting their careers.

Service officials have been studying photorefractive keratectomy, or PRK, and laser in-situ keratomileusis, commonly called LASIK, the two most common procedures, almost since their outset and are convinced they're **safe for military members in most career fields**. PRK involves correcting vision by using a laser to remove surface corneal tissue. In LASIK, the surgeon cuts a flap in the cornea, flips it aside, removes corneal tissue with a laser, and flips the corneal flap back into place.

Members do need to be evaluated by a medical board after receiving the now-rare radial keratotomy, RK, the first common vision-correction surgical procedure. RK involved shaping the cornea with spoke-like scalpel cuts that, service medical officials insisted, weakened the eye structure and put members at risk in military operating environments. Service officials outlined the restrictions on their active duty members.

- Current Air Force rules prohibit aviators and "special duty" personnel -- pilots, flight surgeons and engineers, pararescue and air traffic controllers, for example -- from receiving any type of laser eye surgery, according to Dr. (Col.) Arleen Saenger, the service's chief of physical standards. Air Force officials, however, are coordinating a waiver policy that would allow aviation and special duty personnel, including limited numbers of pilots to obtain PRK -- but not LASIK. Saenger said the policy change approval is expected soon.

She said the Air Force doesn't prohibit other personnel refractive surgery, but it

considers both PRK and LASIK to be elective surgery that neither it nor TRICARE covers. Airmen seeking either procedure must be on leave, and they must notify and be counseled by the TRICARE benefits adviser at their nearest military medical treatment facility within three days of surgery, she added.

- Navy policy disqualifies its aviators from flying duty if they have either procedure, Capt. Charles Barker said. Barker is the director of aerospace medicine for the Navy's Bureau of Medicine and Surgery here. "If they go out and get this on their own, don't tell anybody and get caught, they're not physically qualified and they would have to be reassigned to some other general duty to finish their obligation," he said. Barker said Navy policy may be affected, however, by two ongoing studies into the effects of laser eye surgery on aviators. Navy pilots enrolled in these studies can receive a waiver to remain on flying status.

Navy SEALs and divers are allowed to receive PRK, but not LASIK. "LASIK continues to be disqualifying with no waiver recommended for SEALs and divers," he said. Sailors and Marines are required to have their commander's approval before having either procedure done and they must be cleared by service medical personnel before they can return to duty, Barker said. Complete information concerning the Navy Department policy on corrective eye surgery is available on the Internet at:

[http://navymedicine.med.navy.mil/PRK/refractive\\_surgery\\_information.htm](http://navymedicine.med.navy.mil/PRK/refractive_surgery_information.htm)

- Army aviators will flunk their flight physicals if they have PRK and LASIK, but the Army is different from the other services in that it's providing PRK free to certain soldiers, said Army Dr. (Lt. Col.) Vernon Parmley, director of the Cornea Service at Madigan Army Medical Center, Fort Lewis, Wash. Womack Army Medical Center at Fort Bragg, N.C., has been performing free PRK laser eye surgery on active duty

soldiers since June 1. The highest priority there goes to Special Forces soldiers, Rangers and soldiers in some frequently deployed units. Army medical officials say the service plans to offer the procedure at four more centers by mid-2001. More information on the Army policy concerning laser vision correction is available at <http://www.armymedicine.army.mil/armymed/default2.htm>

Officials from all the services stressed the importance of research before having any elective procedure. "This is surgery on your eyes," said the Air Force's Saenger. All surgery carries inherent risks, she said, and that fact is unfortunately downplayed or ignored in PRK and LASIK ads. "Don't rely on any one person, any one Web site, any one source to give you the entire story about the risks and the benefits," Saenger said. "People really, really need to make an informed decision. It's not like glasses or contacts that you can change if they're not quite right."

Arizona Soldiers can call the Health Services Division at **602-267-2761** or **2577** for Arizona National Guard's policy on the above referenced surgery.



## DOD WEBSITES

For defense information and news releases visit the DOD websites listed below:

Subscribe or unsubscribe:  
<http://www.defenselink.mil/news/subscribe.html>

News releases on the web:  
<http://www.defenselink.mil/news/releases.html>

Department of Defense home page:  
<http://www.defenselink.mil/>



<http://www.defenselink.mil/news/DailySummary.html>

### USEFUL WEBSITES

For more information on United Concordia Dental Care visit their website at:

<http://www.ucci.com>

Having problems finding a provider for your dependants. Check out the TRIWEST website at:

<http://www.triwest.com>

LAFB Locator (photo lab, commissary, etc.), also the site for medical and dental appointments and phone numbers:

[http://www.enlisted.com/be/AZ\\_LUKE\\_AFB/AZ\\_LUKE\\_AFB\\_.shtml](http://www.enlisted.com/be/AZ_LUKE_AFB/AZ_LUKE_AFB_.shtml)

Interested in a Title 10 position at National Guard Bureau. Look for the latest ARNG Title 10 AGR information on the NGB home page at:

<http://www.arng.ngb.army.mil>

\*\*Click on the T under quick search and look for Title 10 positions and T-10 application procedures.

### UPDATE ON THE THRIFT SAVINGS PLAN

The Proposed Rules for the Uniformed Services Thrift Savings Plan (UNISERV) published in the Federal Register, Vol. 66, No. 84, Tuesday, 1 May 2001, extend the ending date of the initial UNISERV open enrollment period from 8 December 2001, as previously reported, to 31 January 2002. If the rules are adopted, the initial UNISERV enrollment period for uniformed services members will run from 9 October 2001 through 31 January 2002. UNISERV contributions based on a UNISERV election made on or before 31 December 2001 will be deducted from pay the first full pay period of January 2002; UNISERV elections made in January 2002 will be effective during the first full pay period after the election is received. For UNISERV information, visit the website at

<http://www.tsp.gov/uniserv/index.html>.

To see the proposed rules, go to <http://www.access.gpo.gov>. Click on: "GPO Access"; "Federal Register"; "Attn: New Federal Register Browse Feature"; "Browse back issues of Federal Register Table of Contents - 2001." Then scroll down to "Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board."

Comments on the proposed rules are due 2 July.

Rose M. Deck  
Plans & Operations Officer  
NGB-ARM-P  
DSN 327-9760  
(703) 607-9760  
FAX x7182

NOTE: This is a plain text version of a web page. If your mail program did not properly format this information, current News Articles are online at

<http://www.defenselink.mil/news/#News>

<http://www.defenselink.mil/pubs/pentagon/>

<http://www.defenselink.mil/news/subscribe.html>

### AGR OFFICE PHONE LISTING

Our office symbol is AZAA-HR-A

COL Richard Palmatier,  
AGR Manager at 602-267-2485  
SFC Judy Carlson  
AGR Personnel SGT at 602-267-2948  
Msgt Pauline F. Gonzalez  
Military Personnel Spec 602-267-2453



### AGR HANDBOOK

If you are new to the AGR program or been around a while there is a lot of valuable information in the AGR Handbook, and it is available by email or it can be downloaded from the HRO website at <http://www.azng.com/hro>



## HAPPY FOURTH OF JULY!!!!

